their development and. execution. Almost all may remenibef instances in which the plots of cunning were disclosed when they seemed about to be successful, or in which the hand of violence was arrested when it was lifted for action.

IV. As the aggregate result of the regulations of Providence., there are *groups* of arrangements fitted to restrain the individual from vice, and to cement society. The class of arrangements last considered are of an individual and accidental character., being of the nature of those fortuities which, as we have seen, serve so important a purpose in the government of God. Those now falling under consideration are rather of the nature of those general laws which, acting uniformly, exercise a constant influence upon the world. Like these general laws, they are the result of skilful adjustments ; and being constant, or recurrent after proper intervals, they tend to bind mankind together, and to counterbalance ever-recurring evils.

A few instances, out of many presenting themselves to the observant eye, will indicate the kind of means which God employs to keep human waywardness within bounds. Look at this quiet rural district of our land, a kind of peninsula to the contiguous world, from which it is all but separated. There is not an event occurring during many years to disturb the outward harmony which visibly reigns in it. The citizen who retreats to it in the season of the year when all nature is smiling, is inclined to think that this decorum must proceed from the loftiest principle and high-toned religion, and concludes that he has discovered paradise still lingering on our earth. Alas ! he needs only a little familiar and household acquaintance with the inhabitants to discover that there are feuds, individual and family, raging in many a bosom. As he is initiated into the secrets of the little world, he finds that it is but a miniature of the great world, and that there are smouldering jealousies, heartburnings, and animosities, where he

thought that all had been confidence and love. Whence then, you ask, this pleasing propriety and visible peace ? On inquiry, you may find that there are counteracting influences in the very evil agencies which are at work in the community. Every man's eye is upon his neighbour's character, and he who exhibits selfishness, deceit, or violence, instantly becomes the object of general suspicion and dislike. The very curiosity arid jealoS^, so prying, which the parties exercise towards one anothevj are the means of